

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Applicant uses as a starting point 's amendments present in the following the set of claims are made relative the claims as submitted to the commissioner on 01/19/2006. This set of claims ~~was containing~~ contained 10 claims. Claim 1 and 5 have been amended; claim 3, 9 and 10 are canceled. Applicant declares n No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

### Listing Of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for obtaining a mixture of solid components in a predetermined ratio, each solid components being stored in a hopper, the method ~~stored in~~ containers having a bottom opening comprising providing for each component a fluidized flow by injecting air into each container near the bottom opening to render the component flowable, said flow at a predetermined individual flow rate corresponding to the ratio of said component in the mixture; conveying each flow to the inlet of a static mixer exclusively by gravity, the mixer continuously producing at an outlet a flow of the mixture, wherein the method further comprising monitoring an effective flow rate of one selected component of the mixture; and adjusting in real time the individual flow rates of each other components based on said effective flow rate.
- ~~1.2.~~ (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising: dispersing the flows inside the mixer by causing the flows to pass at least one static obstacle inserted in the flows.
3. (Canceled)
- ~~3.4.~~ (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said mixture includes a cement and further comprising blending the mixture with water to form a slurry; pumping the slurry into an annulus of a well.
- ~~3.5.~~ (currently amended) An apparatus for preparing a mixture of solid components in a predetermined ratio comprising a hopper for each individual components, said ~~hopper~~

~~including lateral walls and a bottom with an opening and further comprising a grid extending from the lower portion of the lateral walls to the opening, and apparatus comprising means for introducing air into the gap between the hopper bottom and the grid; said grid permeable to air but not to the component stored in the hopper, means for adjusting the flow rate of each component flowing from the hopper opening, for adjusting the flow rate of each component flowing from the opening based on the ratio of each component in the mixture, a static mixer having an inlet into which all individual flows are conveyed exclusively by gravity, said mixer continuously producing at an outlet a flow of mixture wherein the apparatus according further comprising: a Man Machine Interface to input a mixture recipe; processing means to calculate for each component of the mixture the predetermined flow rate from a ratio of the components in the mixture recipe; and a sensor system to measure a value of an effective flow rate of a selected component of the mixture, the sensor system producing a sensor signal indicative of the value of the effective flow rate of said component; an adjustable valve, the effective flow rate of the component being adjusted depending on an opening of the adjustable valve; and wherein the adjustable valve and the sensor define a loop, and the flow rate of the component being regulated to the predetermined flow rate using the sensor signal.-~~

~~3.6.~~ (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said means for adjusting said individual generated flow rate based include knife gate valves.

~~3.7.~~ (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the vertical walls of the hopper form an angle ( $\alpha$ ) to the vertical ranging from 0 to 23°.

~~3.8.~~ (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the mixer includes dispersing means statically mounted inside the main body so as to present an obstacle to the global flow entering the inlet.

~~3.9.~~ (Canceled)

~~3.10.~~ (Canceled)